

# Military and Overseas Voter Guidelines



Issued by the  
**State Board of  
Elections**

## **PREFACE**

This Military and Overseas Voter Guidelines booklet has been designed to provide information to Illinois citizens who live overseas or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and will not be in their home county on Election Day. Please be advised that for military personnel, Illinois law allows for you to register to vote and to apply for an absentee ballot at the same time.

Additional information can be obtained from either our Springfield or Chicago office or from your local election authority (County Clerk or Board of Election Commissioners).

January 2008

## **Illinois Voter Registration Forms**

This form is provided in English and Spanish by the Illinois State Board of Elections and when completed may be submitted by mail to the Illinois State Board of Elections, 1020 South Spring, Springfield IL 62704, or to the respective local election authority. It can be electronically obtained through [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

## **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

The Federal Postcard Application is a form provided by the Department of Defense to permit members of the U.S. Armed Forces, their dependents and U.S. citizens abroad to vote by absentee ballot and if necessary, to register to vote. This Postcard Application must be submitted by mail to the Illinois State Board of Elections or to the respective local election authority. It can be electronically obtained through [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

## ILLINOIS

*Circled letters on the form below correspond to the instructions on the following page. You must complete all shaded areas.*

## FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION

# REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST - FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA)

1. REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ALL ELECTIONS TO WHICH I AM ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AND I AM (mark only one):

☒ A MEMBER OF THE (PRINTED) JURISDICTION OR JURISDICTIONS (ON ACTIVE DUTY) OR RESIDABLE SPACE OR RESIDENT

☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. TEMPORARILY

☐ A U.S. CITIZEN RESIDING OUTSIDE THE U.S. PERMANENTLY

2. MY INFORMATION (Required)

2. TYPES (PRINTED) LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE:

a. LAST	a. FIRST	a. MIDDLE	b. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	c. VOTER IDENTIFICATION OR C. NUMBER
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 20px;"></div>

3. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include number, include all international prefixes)

4. FAX NUMBER (No 100 number, include all international prefixes)

5. HOME ADDRESS

6. MY VOTING RESIDENCE ADDRESS (For military, use legal residence. For overseas citizens, use last legal residence in U.S.) (Required)

7. EMPLOYER AND STREET (Print name & P.O. Box)

8. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE

9. COUNTY

10. STATE & ZIP CODE

11. WHERE TO SEND MY VOTING MATERIALS

12. IF CURRENT ADDRESS (Other than listed) Required

13. IF YOU FORWARDING (Required) Complete if I am 18 years or over and your ballot comes to the address I wish it to

14. I WANT TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT. AM I ELIGIBLE BY ( ) STATE, ( )

15. YES

16. NO

17. (State)

18. MY POLITICAL PARTY PREFERENCE (Optional, but may be required by state to register to vote in primary elections)

19. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Designate the period for which you want to receive ballots - see instructions for block 8 paragraph 13). (Consult the voting jurisdictions inside for other specific state instructions)

20. REFERENCES (Required)

Include in address, include priority of service for:

1. Each member of the Uniformed Services of Medical Reserve or Active Duty or (if eligible) spouse or dependent of a member, or a U.S. citizen temporarily residing outside the U.S., or other U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S.
2. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
3. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
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7. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
8. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
9. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
10. Any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age (or will be by the day of the election), eligible to vote for Representative and/or Senator
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Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMPLETION OF FPCA

- A. Check ONE box. U.S. Government employees must check “a”.
- B. Your Illinois Driver’s License number OR the last four digits of your Social Security number is required for voter registration. If you do not possess either of these identifications, the state shall assign a number that will serve to identify you for voter registration purposes.
- C. Provide an e-mail address that you can access and/or a phone number at which you can be reached for use in contacting you in a timely manner in the event that there is a question regarding your application.
- D. Provide the complete street address of your Illinois voting residence. A post office box is not sufficient. If your address includes a rural route, describe its location in Block 6. For example: “on Highway\_\_\_\_, 2 miles past Highway \_\_\_\_\_, across the street from the \_\_\_\_gas station.” This address must be different from the one provided in Block 4 and must be within the county where you claim legal voting residence.
- E. Print the complete address where you want your ballot sent – usually your current mailing address. Your current mailing address must be different from the address you provided in Block 3.
- F. This form acts as a request for a mailed absentee ballot only. Illinois does not allow you to receive or return the absentee ballot electronically.
- G. If you do not list a party affiliation, you cannot vote in primary elections. You must indicate your political party affiliation when applying for a primary ballot (Example: Democrat, Republican) or write “none” in block 5 of the FPCA. Political party choice is not required if only requesting absentee ballots for general elections.

- H. Submission of this form serves as a request to receive ballots for all federal elections held through the next two regularly scheduled general elections. If you do not wish to receive ballots for that length of time, you may request a ballot for each election for Federal office held in the next election year or a ballot of only the next scheduled election for Federal office by voting your choice here.
- I. You must sign and date the FPCA. When signing, you are swearing or affirming that the information is true and correct.

## **MILITARY VOTERS**

### **Who Can Vote?**

#### **You Must:**

- Be a United States citizen
- Be at least 18 years old
- Live in the elections precinct at least 30 days (military voters are exempt from this)
- Not be convicted and in jail
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere else.
- Be registered (Please be advised that for military personnel, Illinois law allows for you to register to vote and to apply for an absentee ballot at the same time.)

### **Who is a military voter?**

A military voter is one who is a member of the United States Uniformed Service serving away from his/her place of permanent residence and who is also:

- A family member or dependent of voting age, accompanying them
- Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration
- U.S. Government employees serving outside the U.S.

### **How Do I Register to Vote and Request an Absentee Ballot?**

If you meet all the qualifications to vote, registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot are simple. Follow these steps:

- You should send an FPCA to your local election official every year and whenever you change your mailing address.
- To apply for an absentee ballot, the local election official must receive your FPCA ballot request not later than 10 days before Election Day.
- Illinois law allows for a mother, father, sister, brother, husband or wife of the military member to register that person in lieu of the official postcard.  
(10 ILCS 5/20-3)

### **How Do I Cast My Vote?**

Voting is now easier for military voters. You can vote in person or by mail.

- When in State, you are allowed to vote in person at the designated polling place for your permanent residence.
- Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballots must be received in the local election office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day or providing that an election authority receives the ballot with a postmark date of 11:59 p.m. the day before the election, the ballot can be received and counted within the 14<sup>th</sup> day period for counting provisional ballots.
- Illinois law does not allow you to receive or return a ballot by fax.



## **FAMILIES OF MILITARY VOTERS**

A family member of a military voter is a spouse or dependent, of military personnel who, by reason of active duty or service of the member, is absent from the place of residence where the spouse or dependent is otherwise qualified and registered to vote. A military voter is defined as:

- Anyone serving in the Uniformed Services which are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces, Merchant Marine, Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration
- U.S. Government employees serving outside the U.S.
- However, children born to military members who have reached the age of 18 but have never resided in Illinois are not eligible to vote in Illinois.

### **How Do I Register to Vote and Request an Absentee Ballot?**

If you meet all the qualifications to vote, registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot are simple. Follow these steps:

- You should send an FPCA to your local election official every year and whenever you change your mailing address.
- Illinois law allows you to register to vote and to apply for an absentee ballot at the same time
- To apply for an absentee ballot, the local election official must receive your FPCA ballot request not later than 10 days before Election Day.

### **How Do I Cast My Vote?**

Voting is now easier for the families of military voters. You can vote in person or by mail.

- When in State, you are allowed to vote in person at the designated polling place for your permanent residence.
- Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballots must be received in the local election office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day or providing that an election authority receives the ballot with a postmark date of 11:59 p.m. the day before the election, the ballot can be received and counted within the 14<sup>th</sup> day period for counting provisional ballots.
- Illinois does not allow you to receive or return a ballot by fax.

## **OVERSEAS VOTERS**

### **Who is an overseas voter?**

Overseas voters are grouped into two categories:

“Citizens of the United States temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States” means civilian citizens of the United States and their spouses and dependents of voting age when residing with or accompanying them, who maintain a precinct residence in a county in this State and whose intent to return may be ascertained. (10 ILCS 5/20-1)

“Non-Resident Civilian Citizens” means civilian citizens of the United States (a) who reside outside the territorial limits of the United States, (b) who had maintained a precinct residence in a county in this State immediately prior to their departure from the United States, (c) who do not maintain a residence and are not registered to vote in any other State, and (d) whose intent to return to this State may be uncertain. (10 ILCS 5/20-1)

### **How Do I Register to Vote and Request an Absentee Ballot?**

- You should send an FPCA to your local election official every year and whenever you change your mailing address.
- If you are an unregistered Illinois resident temporarily residing outside the U.S., the local election official must receive your FPCA not later than 30 days before the election. You will receive a ballot for local, state and Federal offices. However, if your FPCA arrives less than 30 days, but not later than 10 days before the election, registration is waived and the local election official will send you a ballot for Federal offices only.
- If you are a registered Illinois resident temporarily residing outside the U.S., the local election official must receive your FPCA not later than 10 days before the election. You will receive a ballot for local, state and Federal offices.
- If you are an overseas non-resident civilian citizen, otherwise qualified to vote in Illinois, you may make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over your precinct of former resident for an absentee ballot containing the Federal offices only. The application must be received not less than 10 days before a Federal Election.

## **Casting Your Vote**

Ballot Return Deadline: Voted ballot must be received in the local election office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day or by the 14<sup>th</sup> day following the election if postmarked by 11:59 p.m. the day before the election.

Local election officials send regular absentee ballots 45 days before a primary or special election and 60 days before a general election.

If regular absentee ballots are not available 60 days before the general election, local election officials mail a Special Write-In Absentee Voter's Blank ballot with a list of candidates who have qualified to be on the ballot and all referenda for which the voter is qualified to vote.

## **Notary/Witness Requirements**

No registration or voting materials need be notarized or witnessed.

## **Electronic Transmission of FPCA's and Ballots**

Generally, Illinois does not allow electronic transmission of the FPCA, the blank absentee ballot or the voted ballot. However, the Department of Defense (beginning in December 2007) will begin to provide military and overseas voters with the ability to electronically complete the FPCA to register to vote with the request for an absentee ballot. Please visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for more information.

## **General Information**

### **Bars to Registration and Voting**

Persons imprisoned for any crime may not register or vote. However, persons on parole are not prohibited from registering and voting. Voters who are confined or detained in a jail or prison pending a trial of a crime are not disqualified from voting. Such confinement or detention is a specified reason for absentee voting.

### **Cancellation of Registration**

Registration is suspended unless a confirmation notice mailed to the registrant is returned prior to the next election. An application for ballot will reactivate the full registration during the period of two years if the registrant has not changed Illinois residence.

### **Action on Registration Requests**

Notice of registration is sent by mail after an affidavit of registration is completed in duplicate and returned to the local election official.

### **Action upon Denial of Registration or Absentee Ballot Request**

Upon denial of your voter registration application or absentee ballot request, Illinois shall provide you with the reason(s) for the rejection.

### **Action if Registration is Denied**

Persons denied registration may appeal to the circuit court. Persons seeking to appeal should consult a legal assistance officer or civilian counsel.

### **Late Registration**

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or merchant marine or those discharged within 60 days of an election, who return to Illinois too late to register for the upcoming election are still entitled to vote in person in that election but only by affidavit. Registration is not required.

### **Where to Send it**

Mail the completed FPCA to the County Clerk, City Board of Election Commissioners, or County Board of Election Commissioners in your county or city of voting residence as listed on the following pages.

**Adams County Clerk**  
507 Vermont  
Quincy, IL 62306  
217/277-2150

**Alexander County Clerk**  
2000 Washington Avenue  
Cairo, IL 62914  
618/734-7000

**Bond County Clerk**  
203 West College  
Greenville, IL 62246  
618/664-0449

**Boone County Clerk**  
601 North Main  
Street, Suite 202  
Belvidere, IL 61008  
815/544-3103

**Brown County Clerk**  
200 Court Street,  
Room 4  
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353  
217/773-3421

**Bureau County Clerk**  
700 South Main  
Street Room 104  
Princeton, IL 61356  
815/875-2014

**Calhoun County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 187, 102  
County Road  
Hardin, IL 62047  
618/576-2351

**Carroll County Clerk**  
301 North Main  
Mt. Carroll, IL 61053  
815/244-0221

**Cass County Clerk**  
100 East Springfield  
Street  
Virginia, IL 62691  
217/452-7217

**Champaign County Clerk**  
1776 East  
Washington  
Urbana, IL 61802  
217/384-3720

**Christian County Clerk**  
101 South Main  
P. O. Box 160  
Taylorville, IL 62568  
217/824-4969

**Clark County Clerk**  
501 Archer Ave.  
Marshall, IL 62441  
217/826-8311

**Clay County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 160, 111  
Chestnut  
Louisville, IL 62858  
618/665-3626

**Clinton County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 308, 850  
Fairfax  
Carlyle, IL 62231  
618/594-2464



**Coles County Clerk**  
651 Jackson Avenue,  
Room 122  
Charleston, IL 61920  
217/348-0501

**Cook County Clerk**  
69 West Washington,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312/603-0996

**Crawford County  
Clerk**  
P. O. Box 616, 100  
Douglas  
Robinson, IL 62454  
618/546-1212

**Cumberland County  
Clerk**  
P. O. Box 146, 140  
Courthouse Square  
Toledo, IL 62468  
217/849-2631

**DeKalb County Clerk**  
110 East Sycamore  
Street  
Sycamore, IL 60178  
815/895-7149

**DeWitt County Clerk**  
201 West  
Washington Street  
P O. Box 439  
Clinton, IL 61727  
217/935-2119

**Douglas County  
Clerk**  
401 South Center  
P. O. Box 467  
Tuscola, IL 61953  
217/253-2411

**Edgar County Clerk**  
115 West Court  
Street, Room "J"  
Paris, IL 61944  
217/466-7433

**Edwards County  
Clerk**  
50 East Main Street  
Albion, IL 62806  
618/445-2115

**Effingham County  
Clerk**  
101 North 4<sup>th</sup>, Suite  
201, P. O. Box 628  
Effingham, IL 62401  
217/342-6535

**Fayette County Clerk**  
221 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street,  
P. O. Box 401  
Vandalia, IL 62471  
618/283-5000

**Ford County Clerk**  
200 West State  
Street, Room 101  
Paxton, IL 60957  
217/379-2721

**Franklin County Clerk**  
202 West Main, P. O.  
Box 607  
Benton, IL 62812  
618/438-3221

**Fulton County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 226,  
100 North Main  
Lewistown, IL 61542  
309/547-3041

**Gallatin County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 550, 484 N.  
Lincoln Boulevard  
West  
Shawneetown, IL  
62984  
618/269-3025

**Greene County Clerk**  
519 North Main  
Carrollton, IL 62016  
217/942-5443

**Grundy County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 675,  
111 East Washington  
Street  
Morris, IL 60450  
815/941-3222

**Hamilton County  
Clerk**  
100 South Jackson  
Street  
McLeansboro, IL  
62859  
618/643-2721

**Hancock County  
Clerk**  
P. O. Box 39,  
Carthage, IL 62321  
217/357-3911

**Hardin County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 187, Main &  
Market Streets  
Elizabethtown, IL  
62931  
618/287-2251

**Henderson County  
Clerk**  
P. O. Box 308,  
Oquawka, IL 61469  
309/867-2911

**Henry County Clerk**  
307 West Center  
Street  
Cambridge, IL 61238  
309/937-3481

**Iroquois County  
Clerk**  
1001 E. Grant St.  
Watseka, IL 60970  
815/432-6960

**Jackson County  
Clerk**  
1001 Walnut Street  
Murphysboro, IL  
62966  
618/687-7360

**Jasper County Clerk**  
204 West  
Washington, Suite 2  
Newton, IL 62448  
618/783-3124

**Jefferson County  
Clerk**  
100 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Room 105  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
618/244-8020

**Jersey County Clerk**  
200 North LaFayette  
Jerseyville, IL 62052  
618/498-5571

**JoDaviess County Clerk**  
330 North Bench  
Galena, IL 61036  
815/777-0161

**Johnson County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 96, Court  
Square  
Vienna, IL 62995  
618/658-3611

**Kane County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 70,  
719 South Batavia  
Avenue  
Geneva, IL 60134  
630/232-5990

**Kankakee County Clerk**  
189 East Court Street  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
815/937-2990

**Kendall County Clerk**  
111 West Fox Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
630/553-4104

**Knox County Clerk**  
200 South Cherry  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
309/345-3815

**Lake County Clerk**  
18 North County  
Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
847/377-2400

**LaSalle County Clerk**  
707 East Etna Road  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815/434-8202

**Lawrence County Clerk**  
1100 State Street  
Lawrenceville, IL  
62439  
618/943-2346

**Lee County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 329,  
112 East 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Dixon, IL 61021  
815/288-3309

**Livingston County Clerk**  
112 West Madison  
Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
815/844-2006

**Logan County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 278,  
601 Broadway  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
217/732-4148

**Macon County Clerk**  
141 South Main  
Street  
Room 104  
Decatur, IL 62523  
217/424-1305

**Macoupin County  
Clerk  
P. O. Box 107, 201  
East Main  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
217/854-3214**

**Madison County  
Clerk  
157 North Main  
Street, Suite 109  
Edwardsville, IL  
62025  
618/692-6290**

**Marion County Clerk  
P. O. Box 637,  
100 East Main Street  
Salem, IL 62881  
618/548-3400**

**Marshall County  
Clerk  
122 North Prairie, P.  
O. Box 328  
Lacon, IL 61540  
309/246-6325**

**Mason County Clerk  
P. O. Box 77, 100  
North Broadway  
Havana, IL 62644  
309/543-6661**

**Massac County Clerk  
P. O. Box 429, 1  
Superman Square  
Metropolis, IL 62960  
618/524-5213**

**McDonough County  
Clerk  
1 Courthouse Square  
Macomb, IL 61455  
309/833-2474**

**McHenry County  
Clerk  
2200 North Seminary  
Avenue  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815/334-4242**

**McLean County Clerk  
115 East Washington,  
Room 102  
P. O. Box 2400  
Bloomington, IL  
61701  
309/888-5190**

**Menard County Clerk  
P. O. Box 465  
102 South 7<sup>th</sup>  
Petersburg, IL 62675  
217/632-3201**

**Mercer County Clerk  
P. O. Box 66,  
100 Southeast 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Aledo, IL 61231  
309/582-7021**

**Monroe County Clerk  
100 South Main  
Street  
Waterloo, IL 62298  
618/939-8681**

**Montgomery County  
Clerk  
1 Courthouse Square  
P O. Box 595  
Hillsboro, IL 62049  
217/532-9530**

**Morgan County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 1387,  
300 West State Street  
Jacksonville, IL  
62651  
217/243-8581

**Moultrie County Clerk**  
10 South Main  
Suite 6  
Sullivan, IL 61951  
217/728-4389

**Ogle County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 357  
4<sup>th</sup> & Washington  
Oregon, IL 61061  
815/732-1110

**Peoria County Clerk**  
324 Main Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309/672-6070

**Perry County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 438,  
3764 State Route  
13/127  
Pinckneyville, IL  
62274  
618/357-5116

**Piatt County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 558,  
101 West Washington  
Monticello, IL 61856  
217/762-9487

**Pike County Clerk**  
100 East Washington  
Pittsfield, IL 62363  
217/285-6812

**Pope County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 216,  
400 Main  
Golconda, IL 62938  
618/683-4466

**Pulaski County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 118  
500 Illinois Ave.  
Mound City, IL 62963  
618/748-9360

**Putnam County Clerk**  
P. O. Box 236, 120  
North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hennepin, IL 61327  
815/925-7129

**Randolph County  
Clerk**  
1 Taylor Street  
Room 202  
Chester, IL 62233  
618/826-5000

**Richland County  
Clerk**  
103 West Main Street  
Olney, IL 62450  
618/392-3111

**Rock Island County  
Clerk**  
1504 Third Avenue  
P.O. Box 3577  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309/558-3570

**Saline County Clerk**  
10 East Poplar  
Harrisburg, IL 62946  
618/253-8197

**Sangamon County  
Clerk  
County Complex  
200 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217/753-6700**

**Schuyler County  
Clerk  
P. O. Box 200  
102 South Congress  
Rushville, IL 62681  
217/322-4734**

**Scott County Clerk  
35 East Market  
Winchester, IL 62694  
217/742-3178**

**Shelby County Clerk  
P. O. Box 230  
301 East Main  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
217/774-4421**

**Stark County Clerk  
130 West Main Street  
Toulon, IL 61483  
309/286-5911**

**St. Clair County Clerk  
10 Public Square  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618/825-2380**

**Stephenson County  
Clerk  
15 North Galena Ave.  
Ste. 2  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-235-8289**

**Tazewell County  
Clerk  
11 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 203  
Pekin, IL 61554  
309/477-2264**

**Union County Clerk  
309 West Market  
Room 100  
Jonesboro, IL 62952  
618/833-5711**

**Vermilion County  
Clerk  
6 North Vermilion  
Danville, IL 61832  
217/554-1900**

**Wabash County Clerk  
P. O. Box 277  
401 Market Street  
Mt. Carmel, IL 62863  
618/262-4561**

**Warren County Clerk  
100 West Broadway  
Monmouth, IL 61462  
309/734-8592**

**Washington County  
Clerk  
101 East St. Louis  
Street  
Nashville, IL 62263  
618/327-4800**

**Wayne County Clerk  
P. O. Box 187  
301 E Main  
Fairfield, IL 62837  
618/842-5182**

**White County Clerk  
P. O. Box 339  
301 East Main  
Carmi, IL 62821  
618/382-7211**

**Whiteside County  
Clerk  
200 East Knox Street  
Morrison, IL 61270  
815/772-5189**

**Will County Clerk  
302 North Chicago  
Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
815/740-4615**

**Williamson County  
Clerk  
P. O. Box 1108  
200 West Jefferson  
Marion, IL 62959  
618/997-1301**

**Winnebago County  
Clerk  
404 Elm Street  
Room 104  
Rockford, IL 61101  
815/987-3050**

**Woodford County  
Clerk  
115 North Main  
Room 202  
Eureka, IL 61530  
309/467-2822**

**Aurora Board of  
Election Comm.  
77 South Stolp  
Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60506  
630/897-4030**

**Bloomington Board  
of Election Comm.  
115 East Washington,  
Room 403  
P. O. Box 2400  
Bloomington, IL  
61701  
309/888-5136**

**Chicago Board of  
Election Comm.  
69 West Washington,  
Suite 600/800  
Chicago, IL 60602  
312/269-7900**

**Danville Board of  
Election Comm.  
6 North Vermilion  
Danville, IL 61832  
217/431-2641**

**DuPage County  
Board of Elections  
421 North County  
Farm Road  
P. O. Box 1087  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
608/407-5600**

**East St. Louis Bd. of  
Election Comm.  
8740 State Street  
Suite 200  
East St. Louis, IL  
62203  
618/398-3778**

**Galesburg Board of  
Election Comm.  
P. O. Box 1387  
55 West Tompkins  
Galesburg, IL 61402  
309/342-5563**

**Peoria Board of  
Election Comm.  
542 S.W. Adams  
Peoria, IL 61602  
309/494-8683**

**Rockford Board of  
Election Comm.  
301 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
815/987-5750**



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Can I register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the same time?**

Yes, for military and overseas voters, Illinois law allows for you to register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the same time.

### **What is the Federal Postcard Application?**

The Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) form serves as both an application to register to vote and an application for an absentee ballot. The Card may be downloaded from the Federal Voting Assistance website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Upon receipt of such application, the election authority will mail an affidavit of registration in duplicate to the voter.

The mailing of this affidavit does not apply to members of the military and their spouses and dependents. It does however apply to U.S. citizens temporarily residing outside of the country.

### **Does the FPCA need to have a notary signature or witness signatures?**

No.

### **Do the military/overseas voters need to provide a valid photo identification or other documentation when applying to vote?**

No. When registering by mail, UOCAVA citizens are exempt under Section 303 (b) (3) (C) of the Help America Vote Act, from the requirement to provide a copy of a valid photo identification or other documentation that shows the name and address of the voter.

**I am in the US military. Can I vote? Can my wife/husband vote?**

Any member of the US Armed Forces while on active duty and otherwise qualified to vote may vote by absentee ballot without first being registered to vote in Illinois. The wife or husband of the military person and all dependent, voting age children can also vote by absentee ballot without first being registered to vote. However, children born to military members who have reached the age of 18 but have never resided in Illinois are not eligible to vote in Illinois. In order to vote in person on Election Day, the military member, the spouse or the child must be registered to vote in Illinois. For more information contact your local election authority. A list of County Clerks and Boards of Election Commissioners is available in this booklet and on our website. This list will provide an address, a telephone number and in some instances, an email address.

**I would like to vote but don't know how. Where can I find assistance?**

Specific information on applying and registering to vote is contained in the *Voting Assistance Guide*, distributed by the Department of Defense. This *Guide* is a very valuable resource for the military and overseas voters. You may obtain a PDF version of the *Guide*, as well as other voting related information and links on the FVAP website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

**Where do I send my FPCA?**

Chapter 3 of this *Guide* outlines absentee voting procedures for each state and territory. In your state or territory of legal voting residence under the heading “Where to send it” you will find a list of addresses for county and local election officials.

**Must I submit a separate application for each election?**

Any state requirement to submit a separate FPCA for each election has been superseded by recently passed Federal legislation. Section 702 of the Help America Vote Act provides for the submission of a single FPCA for all elections “through the next 2 regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office” (including runoff elections).

**After completing the Federal Post Card Application do I need a notary signature or a witness signature?**

Not at this time.

**Is Internet voting allowed in Illinois?**

No.

**Am I able to fax my completed ballot to the respective Election Authority?**

Faxing back a completed ballot back to Illinois is not allowed.

**When mailing an FPCA or other elections materials to my state or territory, do I have to pay postage?**

Generally, all election-related materials are mailed postage free from any APO or FPO mail facility, all U.S. embassies and consulates and any post office in the U.S. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility.

**When is the best time to apply for an absentee ballot?**

Generally, the FPCA should be received by election officials at least forty-five days before Election Day to allow ample time to process the request and mail the ballot. If applying for both registration and an absentee ballot, the FPCA may be mailed earlier. FVAP recommends submitting the FPCA in January of each year. Consult Chapter 3 of the *Guide* for further information on state or territorial registration deadlines. Be sure to notify your local election official of any change of address.

**What is an election for Federal Office?**

An election for Federal office is any general, special, runoff or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating, or electing any candidate for the office of President, Vice-President, Presidential elector, Member of the United States Senate, Member of the United States House of Representatives, Delegates from the District of Columbia, Guam, Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, and Resident Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**If I do not maintain a legal residence in the U.S., what is my “legal state of residence?”**

Your “legal state of residence” for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This right extends to overseas citizen even though they may not have property or other ties in their last state or territory. When completing the residence section of the FPCA, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including street or rural route and number.

This information is necessary to place you in the proper voting district, ward, precinct or parish. Family members of citizens residing overseas, who are U.S. citizens and who have never resided in the U.S., usually, if the state allows, claim one of their U.S. citizen parent's legal state or territory of residence as their own. Check Chapter 3 of the *Guide*.

**Can I register or vote in person at the embassy or consulate?**

At the present time, there are no provisions for in person voting or on-site registration to be conducted at U.S. embassies or consulates. U.S. embassy and consular officials will assist U.S. citizens in completing FPCA forms for their state, witness or notarize FPCA forms and ballots (if required), and provide other absentee voting information. U.S. embassy and consulate locations serve also as a mailing point where FPCA forms and other election materials may be mailed back, postage paid, to your local voting jurisdiction in the U.S.

**Who's my State Senator? State Representative? Congressman? US Senator?**

Elected officials can be found by searching the District/Officials section of our website [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov). Searches can be made by address, district type and number, or official name.

**Where would I obtain information on issues and positions taken by candidates?**

In addition to reading U.S. news magazines and newspapers, both Democrats abroad and Republicans abroad maintain overseas offices and have information about the candidates and issues. U.S. embassies and consulates can provide local addresses or phone numbers for these organizations. Alternatively, the party organizations can be contacted by writing:

Andrew Goldberg  
Executive Director Democrats Abroad  
430 S. Capitol Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
[goldberga@dnc.democrats.org](mailto:goldberga@dnc.democrats.org)

Republicans Abroad International  
209 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20003  
[republicansai@mindspring.com](mailto:republicansai@mindspring.com)

## **TEN THINGS TO HELP ENSURE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT IS COUNTED**

1. Start by contacting your Unit/Embassy/Organization Voting Assistance Officer for help in absentee registration and voting process. In Illinois, military personnel are able to register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot at the same time.
2. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) for information on the absentee registration and voting process.
3. Ensure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or on-line versions of FPCA.
4. Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.
5. Sign and date all election materials.
6. Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements. (Illinois does not make such a requirement)
7. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is mailed.
8. Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner.
9. Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your State absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.
10. VOTE!

## **STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Daniel W. White  
Executive Director

1020 South Spring Street  
P.O. Box 4187  
Springfield, Illinois 62708  
Phone: 217/782-4141  
TDD: 217/782-1518

James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, Ste. 14-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Phone: 312/814-6440  
TDD: 312/814-6431

[www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)

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